

# Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

## News and notes on Newfoundland and Labrador's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program

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*By Dale Jarvis*

It has been a busy few months for the ICH office at the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and we are gearing up for a very busy summer. In this edition, there are a few big announcements, including the accreditation of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador by UNESCO, and the launch of our 2012 Folklife Festival, which this year will take place in Bonavista on August 4<sup>th</sup>, with a celebration of Newfoundland's iconic make and break boat engine.

Our numbers have swelled here in the office. Nicole Penney returns to us for a year-long recent graduate internship, and Joelle Carey joins us as this summer's public folklore co-op student. We are also partnering this summer with the Bay Roberts Cultural Foundation on a research project, and providing assistance to their folklore co-op student, Cyndi Egan-Kiigemagi.

Earlier this month, former HFNL staffer Sandy Woolfrey-Fahey ran a workshop here at the Newman Building on media relations for heritage non-profits, and I just returned from the second annual "You, Your Town, and Tourism" workshop in Carbonear. We'll be running more workshops in the months ahead, so stay tuned to future editions of the newsletter, or check out the ICH blog at [doodledaddle.blogspot.com](http://doodledaddle.blogspot.com).

If you are working on an ICH project, or need assistance with the work of safeguarding living traditions in your community, you can call me toll-free at 1-888-739-1892 ext. 2.

## Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador Receives UNESCO Status

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has received observer status through UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for their work with intangible cultural heritage.

The Honourable Derrick Dalley, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, congratulated the foundation on receiving this prestigious honour.

“The work we are doing in Newfoundland and Labrador on safeguarding our living heritage is being recognized internationally,” said Minister Dalley.

“In fact, we have the opportunity of becoming a global leader in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The accreditation through UNESCO is a step in this process. I commend the foundation for their dedication and tireless efforts, supported by Dale Jarvis, the foundation’s development officer for intangible cultural heritage. They are truly deserving of this privilege.”

As an accredited UNESCO observer, the foundation has the qualifications required to provide advisory services related to intangible cultural heritage. With this status, the foundation could be asked to evaluate nominations to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, a list similar to World Heritage Sites, but intended for cultural treasures.

In the past, UNESCO has recognized Chinese shadow puppetry, flamenco dancing, and the traditional Mediterranean diet as examples of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

“Having the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador accredited as an official observer of UNESCO's ongoing work in the field of intangible cultural heritage is an honour,” said Dr. Jerry Pocius, Chair of the foundation’s advisory committee for intangible cultural heritage. “It enables the province to share successes here with other groups from around the world, and confirms our status as one of the leaders in Canada working to foster the living traditions of ordinary people.”



The foundation’s work with intangible cultural heritage involves a variety of projects. A particular focus in this province has been working with groups and individuals in communities to safeguard their cultural traditions and knowledge, such as the Mummer’s Festival held every December in St. John’s.

In addition, the foundation is currently working on a project to celebrate the role of “make and break” engines in the province and is also working with communities to collect oral history and place it on Memorial University’s Digital Archives.

For more information about UNESCO, visit: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) and for more information about the foundation, visit: [www.heritagefoundation.ca](http://www.heritagefoundation.ca)



*Photos: (top) the exterior of UNESCO headquarters in Paris;  
(bottom) inside the General Assembly meeting.*

## Make and Break Engines: Running the Past into the Future

*The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador acknowledges iconic marine engines in 2012 Provincial Folklife Festival*

**By Joelle Carey**

In a not so distant past waking up to the sound of motor boats in the water was the norm in Newfoundland. Not the continuous drone of a diesel engine, but the rhythmic putt-putt; putt-putt; putt-putt of a make and break inboard engine. This sound was once ubiquitous to the waters of Newfoundland and now these engines are having their moment in the spotlight as the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (HFNL) draws attention to these iconic marine engines for their fourth annual Provincial Folklife Festival.

This summer HFNL wants to restore the interest that Newfoundlanders once had in Make and Break engines. A series of oral history interviews, to be conducted throughout the island, will lead up to the Folklife Festival which, this year, will be held in Bonavista Newfoundland. Events featuring Make and Break engines will be held on Saturday, August 4 in Bonavista as part of the town's inaugural Church Street Festival.

Joelle Carey is a public folklore intern with HFNL and a graduate student in Memorial University's Department of Folklore.

"By working on this project we hope to promote the marine history of the province," says Carey. "It's a great opportunity to get people talking about these engines that are such an important part of life in Newfoundland and Labrador."



The oral history project will take the form of interviews conducted by Carey throughout the summer months. "We have had an excellent response from people wanting to get involved with both the oral history project and the festival," says Carey, "I am really looking forward to getting out, seeing the engines, and hearing what their owners have to say about them." These interviews, along with pictures of the motors found, will then be added to Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative. This archive will be accessible to the public online.

The Heritage Foundation has secured the partnership of Parks Canada through association with Ryan Premises National Historic Site in Bonavista.

Pat Carroll, with Parks Canada, asks, "When someone mentions the 'Ole Make and Break' does your blood suddenly rush and your ears pulse with the ghostly 'tuk-tuk-tuk' of the grand old engines?"

Carroll's love for these engines is obvious but he notes that this love goes further than him. "Through the many conversations I have had in organizing this event, I am repeatedly inspired by the glazed-eyes that come over people and the small smiles that appear on their faces as they recall their particular fond memories of times spent on or near the water," says Carroll. He continues, "Make and Break engines are as much a part of the place as killicks, seal-flipper pie and a scoff of fresh cod."

"The Ryan Premises National Historic Site of Canada is honoured to be a part of this event," states Carroll, "and to have a role in the celebration and rejuvenation of one of the resounding traditions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Atlantic Canada and of the whole of Canada."

The festival events will take place in Bonavista on August 4 and will include a Make and Break flotilla and a parts swap." We are seeking individuals with boats with working engines in them to join the Flotilla, people with parts for engines that they want to get rid of, people looking for parts for engines they're trying to get running, as well as people that are just darned interested in



them old engines,” says Carroll.

“We want to get as many boats and engines as possible to show up for the Make and Break flotilla so that we can really make a ruckus” says Carey.

If you have an engine you would like to display, parts you would like to trade, a boat that you would like to float, or just want to see the motors, come to Bonavista on August 4th and show your support for the 2012 Folklife Festival.

HFNL would like to hear from anyone with memories or an interest in Make and Break engines. If you are interested in getting involved by sharing your stories or if you have an engine that you would like to be part of the events, please email [joelle@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:joelle@heritagefoundation.ca)

or call, toll free, 1-888-739-1892 ext. 5.



## Heritage Plaque Research

*By Nicole Penney*

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is currently working on a research project gathering information about the organization's historic plaque program. As the sole organization in the province mandated to preserve one of the most visible dimensions of Newfoundland and Labrador culture - its architectural heritage, HFNL has been placing historic plaques on registered heritage structures throughout the province for many years.

However, many of these plaques are missing, out of date or badly in need of repair. HFNL will be conducting telephone interviews with structure owners across the province to identify which buildings have plaques, what kind of plaques they have and the condition they are in. If you are the owner of a registered heritage structure and have any questions about the historic plaque program, or have a damaged, or missing, plaque and would like to enquire about getting a replacement, please call Nicole Penney at 1-888-739-1892 ex.6 or via email at [nicole@heritagefoundation.ca](mailto:nicole@heritagefoundation.ca)



## Looking for Community Songs and Supernatural Stories in Bay Roberts

*By Cyndi Egan-Kiigemag*

Nestled on the north side of Conception Bay, the town of Bay Roberts presents a living community steeped in Newfoundland tradition and history. It is host to beautiful scenery, and represents the best of what Newfoundland life has to offer. Bay Roberts is very proud of its Intangible Cultural Heritage and the people who, over the years, have kept these traditions alive through story, song and spoken word. This summer the Bay Roberts Cultural Foundation is participating in the Memorial University's co-op program by hosting a graduate student to collect the "living traditions" that are particular to the Bay Roberts area.

The co-op program offers a unique opportunity for Memorial University students to work directly with an employer within their expertise and academic focus. As a graduate student in Folklore, I will be working with the Bay Roberts Cultural Foundation to research, record and preserve customs, tradition and oral history.

For the first part of the summer, I will be focused on building an archival finding aid for the Bay Roberts Cultural Foundation by cataloguing all the pertinent information available at the Memorial University Folklore and Language Archives (MUNFLA). This will allow the Cultural Foundation to have a catalogue of traditional narrative specific to Bay Roberts.

Secondly, I will be focusing on oral tradition, primarily supernatural narrative, by undertaking fieldwork that will allow me to get out in the Bay Roberts area and interview individuals. I will be interviewing people who the Cultural Foundation sees as tradition bearers, as well as individuals who would like to contribute to the vital and dynamic stories and songs of the Bay Roberts area.

Newfoundland's Intangible Cultural Heritage is a dynamic part of the health and well-being of its communities. Stories, song and antidotes are part the social and cultural adhesive that binds groups and communities together, both historically and for the future. Like so many Newfoundland communities, Bay Roberts still holds treasures of oral tradition.

In my research, I will be centering on the supernatural narratives such as ghost, fairies, witches, fortune telling and omens, as well as songs and poems that are particular to, or about, Bay Roberts. The geographical area will include; Bay Roberts, Coley's Point, Shearstown, Country Road, Butlerville and Mercer's Cove. All are welcome to participate.

If you are interested and would like to contribute to the upcoming collection for Bay Roberts, please do not hesitate to contact me, Cyndi Egan, at the Intangible Cultural Heritage office, Phone number: 1-888-739-1892 ext. 3. You can also contact me by email at [cak46@mun.ca](mailto:cak46@mun.ca).

Have a great summer

Cyndi Egan-Kiigemagi



*Photo: French's Cove, Bay Roberts Heritage Walk*

